



Spring is here!



#### Dates to Remember

##### April 5

School Board  
Meeting - Dresden  
Middle School  
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

##### April 6

Good Friday  
All County Offices  
will be closed

##### April 12-14

UT Martin  
Rodeo weekend  
731.881.7000

##### May 22

Last day of school  
for all students

#### Did you know...

- A poll of Twitter followers reveals that 81% of the people who replied believe the Easter Bunny to be male, based mostly on depictions where it's wearing a bowtie.
- The total annual spending average on all Easter-related goods purchased is \$14.6 billion dollars per year.



Weakley County  
blogsite features  
Community events

The Weakley County blogsite is adding more events in this area for Spring & Summer 2012. Log on to <http://weakleycountyttn.wordpress.com> to see information about festivals, local area pageants, parades, special events, and more!

# Weakley County B•E•A•T

April 2012  
Volume 8, Issue 9

Bringing • Employees • Answers • Today

Weakley County Department of Finance • Shawn Francisco • Director of Finance • 8319 Hwy. 22, Suite B • Dresden, TN 38225

## Long-Term Care Common Questions Answered



Med-America Insurance Company is offering full-time employees (working 25 hours per week or more) **a one-time opportunity to enroll** in the State of Tennessee's group long-term care insurance plan, with no health questions. **Remember that the open enrollment period is March 1, 2012 through April 30, 2012, with coverage beginning May 1, 2012.** This type of insurance has many different coverage options available. Below are some commonly asked questions that can help to clear up some confusion.

1. Q: Can I have one type of coverage (i.e. daily benefit amount \$200) and my spouse have a different type?

A: Absolutely yes, as well as benefit periods, too. Mix or match.

2. Q: Can I add a dependent child when he turns 18 or do I wait for an open enrollment period?

A: Yes, dependent children are eligible to enroll at any time with full underwriting between the ages of 18 and 26. The key is dependent by at least 50% on their parents. Once they turn 27, they can no longer apply but if they already own a policy, they have it forever, as long as they pay their premiums.

3. Q: Is nonforfeiture benefit available with this plan?

A: All LTC-TN policies include a contingent nonforfeiture right at no extra charge to assist those who can no longer afford their premium after a substantial rate increase. There are certain requirements that must be met before you can exercise this feature, so make sure to read about that in the Shopper's Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance (found in the long-term care packets) on pages 25-26 to get all of the details. If you have further questions about this, contact MedAmerica: 1-800-544-0327.

4. Q: If I marry after the initial enrollment, will I be able to add my new spouse and in-laws?

A: Spouses, in-laws, dependent kids age 18-26 and retirees can apply at ANY time regardless and they must go through full underwriting.

Remember that premiums will be based on an individual basis according to the options that you select. Premiums can be payroll deducted or paid semi-annually, quarterly, or annually to receive a discount. Premiums are the full responsibility of the employee.

For more information, e-mail Director of Finance, Shawn Francisco, at [franciscos@k12tn.net](mailto:franciscos@k12tn.net), or schedule a consultation with a MedAmerica representative: 1-800-544-0327.



### Jerry Simmons Honors Weakley County School System with 42 Years of Service

After 42 years of working with Weakley County Schools and 50 years overall of teaching, Mr. Jerry Simmons is thinking about retirement. He began teaching in Michigan in 1962, received his BS and Masters from Michigan State University, and got a second Masters from UT Martin in Administration.

Simmons has taught in Michigan, Paris (TN), Dresden, and was the Principal at both Dresden and Gleason for a number of years as well as Superintendent for 8 years. He has been currently teaching at the Adult Learning Center for about 11 years.

We sat down with Mr. Simmons for a brief interview.

#### The hardest thing I've ever done:

Write a Master's Thesis.

#### Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:

Solomon, Abraham Lincoln, and my wife Marjorie.

**A dream I have is to:** See my grandchildren graduate from college and embark on their careers.

**The most adventurous thing I have ever done is:** Tour out west on a tour bus.

**My favorite way to relax is:** Work around the fields observing nature and looking at my cattle.

**I'm most proud of:** The progress made in Weakley County School System since 1970 and the fact that my sons and his family live across the highway from me.

**My favorite meal is:** Catfish or crappie.

**The last book I read was:** Book of Proverbs in the Bible.

**My favorite movie is:** The Help.

**My favorite music is:** Gospel.

**My hobby is:** Playing with my 4 grandchildren and watching ballgames.

Weakley County is proud and honored to have Mr. Jerry Simmons, and we wish him all the best for the future.

## VisionBlue Gains New Providers for Weakley County Area



The Weakley County area has new participating contracted doctors for the county's BlueCross BlueShield VisionBlue Insurance. Below is an updated list the doctors in this area.

<b>Optometric CTR PC</b> 731-364-2150 113 E Locust St., Dresden	<b>Northwest Tennessee Eye Clinic</b> 731-587-2022 105 Hwy. 431, Martin
<b>EyeCare Center LLC</b> 731-235-2020 110 Broad St., Greenfield	<b>Alan K. Bugg OD</b> 731-885-1049 1022 S Miles Ave., Union City
<b>Northwest Tennessee Eye Clinic</b> 731-235-3222 220 N. Front St., Greenfield	<b>DRS Jordan &amp; Bondurant PLLC</b> 731-885-0541 622 Reelfoot Ave., Union City
<b>EyeCare Center LLC</b> 731-587-3555 107 Kennedy Drive, Martin	<b>Loden Vision Center</b> 731-885-2410 1201 Bishop St., Union City
<b>A Peter Bukeavich OD</b> 731-587-2020 145 Kennedy Dr., Martin	<b>Bill Byars JR OD</b> 731-479-3697 300 Broadway, South Fulton
<b>Donald P. Wright</b> 731-587-2020 145 Kennedy Dr., Martin	<b>Charles A Rice, OD</b> 731-479-1334 207 W State Line, South Fulton

Open enrollment period to add vision coverage will be in the fall of this year. For more information, log onto <http://www.eyemedvisioncare.com/locator/>.

## Employee Spotlight: Register of Deeds Deputies



Starla Cooper & April Jones

The Employee Spotlight is on the Register of Deeds Office, featuring both the First and Second Deputy. April Jones, First Deputy, is starting her tenth year in the Register of Deeds Office, and her fourth as First Deputy. She is married to Trent Jones of Martin and attends the First Baptist Church in Martin. She currently serves as President Elect of the Martin Pilot Club.

Starla Cooper was hired December 1, 2011, to serve as the Second Deputy. Cooper comes to the Register of Deeds Office from 25 years of experience as a Legal Secretary, with a main focus in real estate.

She is married to William Cooper and they reside in Dresden. She has twin daughters, Dena Carter and Candace Allman, three grandsons, and one grandchild on the way. The Coopers attend First Baptist in Sharon.

Weakley County is fortunate and grateful to have Jones and Cooper serving in the Register of Deeds Office.



## Thinking About Retirement? How to Get Started

Thinking about retirement can seem both exciting and intimidating. TCRS and the Weakley County Finance Office are here to help. First, read Retirement...A New Beginning, which is a guide to retirement. It can be found on the TCRS website: [www.tn.gov/treasury/tcrs](http://www.tn.gov/treasury/tcrs).

The first ideal step in the retirement process is to have a retirement benefit estimate calculated. General estimates are printed on your annual statement. Then, you must decide on the plan that would be right for you. See available payment plans at [www.tn.gov/treasury/tcrs](http://www.tn.gov/treasury/tcrs). Once you choose a payment plan and date, start the paperwork. TCRS suggests you begin the paperwork 60-90 days in advance to ensure the office has adequate time to calculate the benefit.

Here is a breakdown of the series of steps:

- Obtain necessary forms from Department of Finance.
  - Fill out a retirement application
  - Fill out insurance application (if under 65)
  - Notify Department of Finance of intent to retire
  - File TCRS retirement eligibility application and related forms 60-90 days prior to last paid date of service
  - If you meet eligibility requirements at time you terminate employment, file for benefits within 150 to avoid benefit loss
  - Decide which benefit payment option to be selected
  - Choose payment method of any accrued annual leave
  - If 65 or older, apply for Part B of Medicare when sponsored insurance coverage ends.
  - Apply for social security benefits when eligible. You must file a separate application: call 1-800-772-1213 for info.
- To learn more, visit TCRS: [www.tn.gov/treasury/tcrs](http://www.tn.gov/treasury/tcrs).

Seem confusing? Call or stop by the Finance Office in Dresden. We can help get you started, provide benefit estimates, and answer questions. Feel free to stop by the Finance Office with any question you may have, or call us at 731.364.5429.

## Spring into these Weakley County Area Activities!



<b>10th Annual Model Train Display</b>	April 7, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Greenfield Community Room
<b>UT Martin Rodeo Weekend</b> 731.881.7000	April 12 - 14, All day UT Martin Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex
<b>UT Martin Vanguard Theatre presents "Proof"</b> 731.881.7000	April 19 - 22, Thurs. - Sat. 8 p.m. Sunday - 3 p.m. Student Life Center at UT Martin
<b>Touch-A-Truck</b>	April 28, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Martin City Park
<b>Tennessee Iris Festival</b>	April 28-May 5, Dresden